

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission  
Proclamation Regulating Spring  
Wild Turkey Hunting Seasons And Bag Limits

Pursuant to the authority granted by Tennessee Codes Annotated Sections 70-4-107 and 70-5-108, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission hereby proclaims the following spring hunting seasons and bag limits for wild turkey hunting effective March 1, 2005.

Section I. General Regulations

A. Prohibited Acts

Use of electronic calls or live decoys. Possession of agricultural grain on one's person while turkey hunting. The use of any type of food to feed or attract wild turkeys on WMAs. Shooting or stalking turkeys from a boat in Shelby, Dyer, Tipton, Lauderdale, Haywood or Obion counties. Calling or attempting to call wild turkeys using any call to mimic the sounds made by a wild turkey is prohibited from March 1st to the opening day of the spring turkey hunts on all WMAs.

A licensed turkey hunter, who has filled his bag limit or does not possess a valid permit for a quota hunt, may accompany another turkey hunter (except on WMAs where prohibited) and assist him in calling, but may not have a gun or bow in his possession.

B. Bag and Possession Limits \*

Statewide - One bearded turkey per day, not to exceed three per season,  
(Includes turkeys taken on WMAs listed in Section III. D. below)

Wildlife Management Areas and Refuges (Except those WMAs listed in Section III. D)  
One bearded turkey per hunt not to exceed two per season.

- \* The total bag and possession limit shall not exceed four bearded turkeys per season on the statewide season and WMAs combined. Turkeys taken on Ft. Campbell, Chickasaw NWR, Lower Hatchie NWR, Reelfoot NWR and youth-only hunts are bonus birds and do not count toward the total season bag and possession limit.

C. Shooting Hours - Thirty (30) minutes before sunrise to sunset

- D. Checking Stations - All hunters must check in at the area checking station prior to hunting on AEDC, John Tully, Catoosa, Cheatham, Chuck Swan State Forest, Laurel Hill, LBL, Natchez Trace State Forest, Prentice Cooper State Forest, Reelfoot and Shelby Forest WMAs. Hunters are also required to check out at the conclusion of their hunt. All turkeys harvested on the statewide hunt or on WMAs must be taken by the most reasonably direct route to the nearest county or WMA check station on the day harvested. The permanent kill tag required for the legal possession will be issued at the checking station.

Section II. Statewide Turkey Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits  
(Exclusive of WMAs and Refuges unless listed in Section III.D below)

- A. Statewide Turkey Season Dates – April 2 through May 10, 2005
- B. Statewide Youth - Only Hunt (ages 10 through 16) – March 26-27, 2005  
Each youth must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult who is not required to have a license. Bag limit - one bearded bird

Section III. Wildlife Management Areas - Seasons and Miscellaneous Regulations

- A. Regular Managed Hunts (No Hunter Quota)-Bag Limit - One bearded turkey per hunt not to exceed two turkeys per spring season. (See Section I.B.)

AEDC	Four hunts: April 2-4, 8-10, 15-17, April 29 – May 1. (TNG training area is closed during the April 8-10 hunt)
Catoosa	Six 3-day hunts: April 8-10, 15-17, 19-21, 26-28, April 29 May 1, May 3-5. One 2-day Youth-only hunt: April 23-24
Cheatham	Four hunts: April 2-4, 8-10, 20-24, 28-May 1 One 1-day youth hunt: April 16
Ernest Rice	One 1-day Youth-only hunt: May 14.
Fall Creek Falls State Park	Two hunts: April 9-13, 14-17 (Archery Only).
John Tully	Two 3-day hunts: April 8-10, 22-24 One 1-day youth hunt: May 14
Kyker Bottoms	Young Sportsman (ages 10-16): Same as Statewide Season Each youth must be accompanied by an adult who may also hunt.
Laurel Hill	Four hunts: April 2-4, 8-10, 16-19, 21-24.
LBL	Two 7-day hunts: April 18-24, April 25-May 1. Hunters harvesting a turkey on a LBL quota hunt (Sect. III.B) may not hunt on the April 18-24 hunt.
Moss Island	One 1-day Youth-only hunt: May 14.

Natchez Trace State Forest	One 4-day hunt: April 21-24.
North Chickamauga Creek (Natural Area Unit Only)	Open with Statewide season except no hunting on Saturday or Sunday. Hunting ends at noon each day.
Prentice Cooper State Forest	Six 3-day hunts: April 5-7, 8-10, 12-14, 21-23, 26-28, April 29-May 1.
Shelby Forest State Forest	One 1-day Youth-only hunt: May 14.
Williamsport	Two 3-day hunts: April 3-5, 16-18.
Wolf River	One 1-day Youth-only hunt: May 15.

B. Quota Managed Hunts (Quota turkey permit required)-Bag Limit-One bearded turkey per hunt not to exceed two per spring season (See Sect. I.B.)

Chuck Swan State Forest	Six 3-day hunts: April 2-4, 7-9, 14-16, 21-23, April 28-April 30, May 5-7. (125 hunter quota per hunt). Hunting ends at noon each day, hunters must be at check station by 1pm
Ernest Rice	One 2-day hunt: April 16-17. (30 hunter quota)
LBL	Two 2-day hunts: April 12-13, 16-17 (350 quota per hunt) One 2-day Youth-only hunt: April 9-10 (300 hunter quota)
Moss Island	One 2-day hunt: April 16-17. (30 hunter quota)
Natchez Trace State Forest	Three 3-day hunts: April 8-9, 15-17, 22-24. 96 hunter quota per hunt (48 south of I-40 only and 48 north of I-40 only). Hunters must sign in and out each day they hunt.
Oak Ridge	Two 2-day hunts: April 2-3, 16-17. (125 hunter quota per hunt). Hunting ends at 2 p.m. daily, successful hunters must be at check station by 3 p.m. Scouting date for permit holders only March 20 (6am to 2 pm) Hunts subject to cancellation for National security. Hunting area may be reduced.
Reelfoot WMA and Black Bayou Refuge	One 3-day hunt: April 15-17 (20 Hunter quota)
Shelby Forest and	Three 1-day hunts: April 9, 16, 23 (50 hunter quota per

Eagle Lake Refuge	hunts)
Wolf River	Two 3-day hunts: April 1-3 (25 hunter quota) and April 15-17 (30 hunter quota). Hunting ends at noon each day and successful hunters must check birds at Wolf River Check Station by 1pm
Yuchi Refuge (at Smith Bend)	Five three-day hunts: April 8-10, 15-17, 22-24, 26-28, May 3 5(10 hunter quota per hunt). Hunting ends at Noon EST. Walk-in only. No Access by Boat.

C. Special Managed Hunts (No Hunter Quota)

Cordell Hull (Wheel Chair Bound Only Hunting Zone*)	April 2-May 10. Wheel chair bound hunters only Bag Limit – two turkeys either-sex per season
South Cherokee** and Foothills	April 2- May10 (Non-quota permit required) Bag limit - one bearded turkey per day not to exceed 2 per season. Turkey counts in WMA bag limit.  May 14, 2003 - Youth-only (age 10 through 16) hunt to Coincide with the statewide youth hunt. Bag limit is one bearded bird and counts as a statewide bird.

\*Wheel Chair Only Hunting Zone – That portion of Cordell Hull WMA known as the  
Old Roaring River Campground (as posted)

\*\*South Cherokee – portions of Cherokee Forest WMA south of Great Smoky  
Mountains. National Park

D. Wildlife Management Areas and Refuges Open With Statewide Seasons and Bag Limits:

Alpine Mountain, Bark Camp Barrens, Barkley (Units I and II), Bean Switch Refuge, Big Sandy, (including Gin Creek), Bridgestone/Firestone, Buffalo Springs, Camden (Units I and II), Cedar Hill Swamp, Chickamauga, Chickasaw State Forest, Cheatham Lake, Cold Creek Refuge, Cordell Hull, Cordell Hull Refuge, Cove Creek, Cove Mountain, Cypress Pond Refuge, Doe Mtn, Eagle Creek, Edgar Evins State Park, Flintville Hatchery, Gooch, Harmon's Creek, Haynes Bottom, Henderson Island, Hickory Flats, Hop-in Refuge, Horns Bluff Refuge, Jarrell Switch, Jackson Swamp, Keyes-Harrison, Lick Creek, Lick Creek Bottoms, Long Pond, Maness Swamp Refuge, MTSU, Mt. Roosevelt, New Hope, Nolichucky, Normandy, Obion River, Old Hickory (including Lock 5 Refuge), Pea Ridge, Percy Priest Unit I (archery only) and Unit II, Pickett, Rankin, Royal Blue, Standing Stone State Park, Sundquist, West Sandy, Tellico Lake (except McGhee-Carson and Niles Ferry Units), Tigrett, Watts Bar, White Lake Refuge, White Oak, Yanalhi and portions of the Cherokee Forest WMA north of the Great Smoky Mtns. National Park are

open to coincide with the statewide seasons and bag limits.

Section IV. National Wildlife Refuge Hunts - Federal Permit required Bag Limit – One bearded turkey per season (counts as a bonus bird unless otherwise noted).

Chickasaw NWR	Three 5-day hunts: April 6-10, 13-17, 20-24 (50 hunter quota per hunt)
Lower Hatchie NWR	Three 5-day hunts: April 6-10, 13-17, 20-24 (25 hunter quota per hunt)
Upper Hatchie NWR	Same as statewide (counts in statewide bag)
Tennessee NWR and Cross Creeks NWR	April 2 – May 10 (counts in statewide bag) May 14th - a Youth-only (age 10 through 16) hunt to coincide with the statewide youth hunt and bag limit.
Reelfoot NWR	One three-day hunt April 8-10. Hunter quota: Grassy Lake - 25, Long Point - 25.

Section IV. Repeal of Prior Proclamations

This proclamation repeals Proclamation 03-18 dated October 31, 2003.

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission

---

Chairman

I certify that this is an accurate and complete copy of the proclamation lawfully promulgated and adopted by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of November 2004.

---

Secretary

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2004.

---

Notary Public

My commission expires on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_.

Proclamation No. 04-XX received and recorded this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2004.

---

Riley C. Darnell, Secretary of State